

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JONATHAN LEE RICHES,) No. C 07-5867 MJJ (PR)
Plaintiff,)
v.) **ORDER OF DISMISSAL**
DENZEL WASHINGTON, et al.,)
Defendants.)

Plaintiff, a federal prisoner proceeding pro se, filed this pro se complaint against Denzel Washington and other individuals involved in the making of the movie "American Gangster."

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988). To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

Sections 1915A and 1915(e)(2) accord judges the unusual power to pierce the veil of

1 the complaint's factual allegations and dismiss as frivolous those claims whose factual
2 contentions are clearly baseless. See Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 32 (1992).
3 Examples are claims describing fantastic or delusional scenarios with which federal district
4 judges are all too familiar. See Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 328 (1989). To pierce the
5 veil of the complaint's factual allegations means that a court is not bound, as it usually is
6 when making a determination based solely on the pleadings, to accept without question the
7 truth of the plaintiff's allegations. See Denton, 504 U.S. at 32. A finding of factual
8 frivolousness is appropriate when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the
9 wholly incredible, whether or not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict
10 them. See id. at 32-33.

11 Plaintiff alleges defendants are violating his Sixth Amendment rights by distributing
12 the movie "American Gangster." According to plaintiff, the movie promotes crime "which
13 leads to tougher sentencing laws, which affects me." Plaintiff further alleges defendants'
14 movie "is in violation of the Trading with Enemy Act, using the proceeds to buy machine
15 guns and uzis for Syrian Hezbollah." Plaintiff seeks an order compelling defendants to "stop
16 making movies." As plaintiff's allegations are clearly baseless, irrational or wholly
17 incredible, the complaint will be dismissed as frivolous under sections 1915A and
18 1915(e)(2).

19 For the foregoing reasons, this action is DISMISSED.

20 The Clerk shall close the file.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED: 12/18/07


23 MARTIN J. JENKINS
United States District Judge

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